

APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING A SPARE TIRE AND WHEEL ASSEMBLY ON A MOTOR VEHICLE

Abstract of the Disclosure

A tire lift winch unit includes a depending cable connected through a plastic bushing to an adapter supporting a spare tire and wheel assembly for movement between an elevated stored position and a lower ground engaging position. A secondary support system includes a tubular support bracket enclosing a tubular shell and latch mechanism with a latch body supporting retractable latch blades biased by corresponding springs confined within opposing slots within the latch body and blades. The shell depends from the latch body and has a bottom flange supporting a conical washer engaging the adapter, and a tubular latch release pin extends within the shell. A conical compression spring biases the latch system downwardly within the support bracket to hold the blades retracted for clearing the bracket when the tire and wheel assembly are removed from the adapter.